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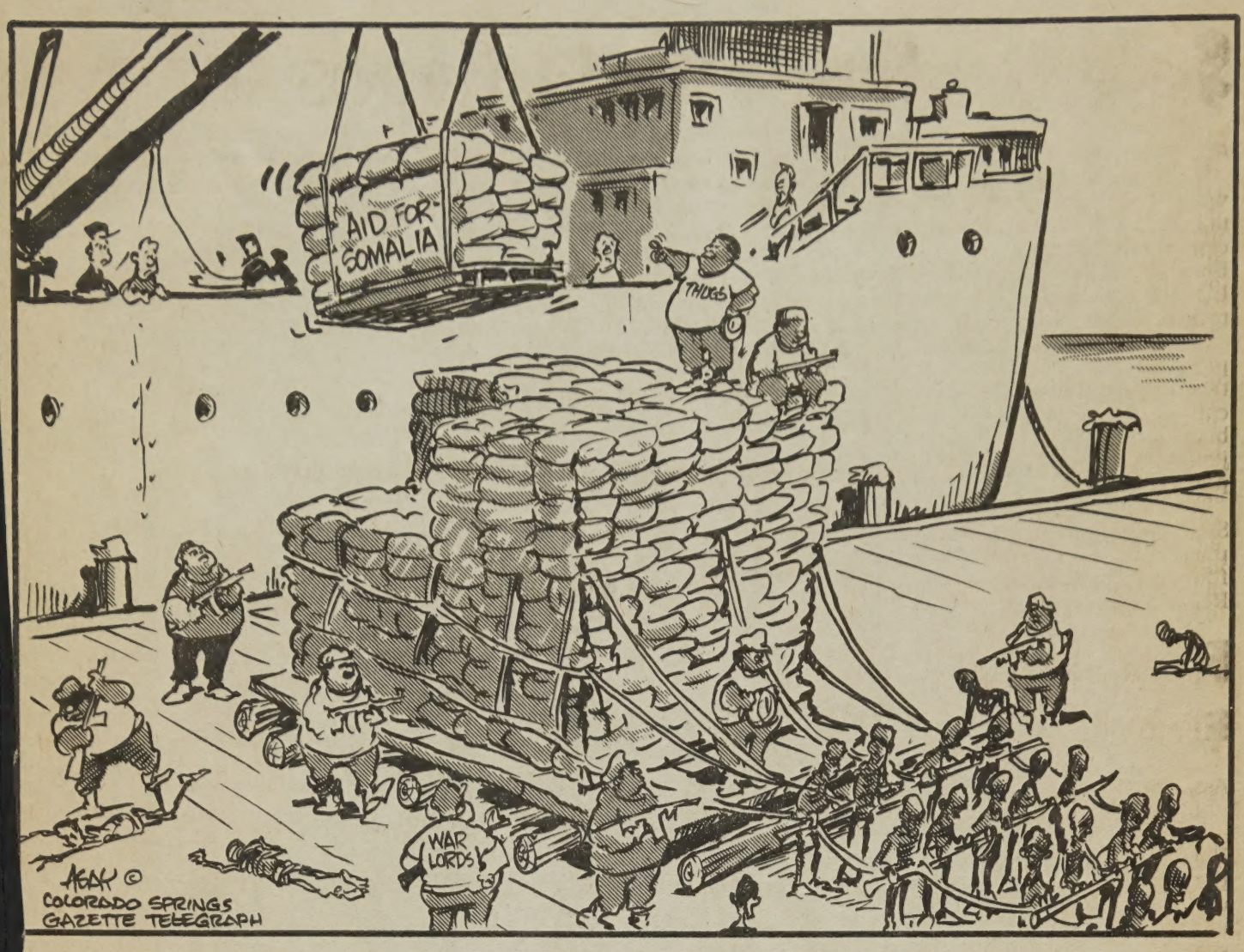


LETTERS/**Gazette Telegraph, Box 1779, Colorado Springs 80901 FAX (719) 636-0202 Modem 636-0127**

# Set example by casting ballot

The United States of America is a nation that prides itself on the fact that it has a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Therefore, it is impossible to overstate the importance of voting by American citizens in each and every election. You simply cannot have self-government without the involvement of the electorate.

Each time citizens cast a ballot for candidates of their choice, they are expressing their belief in the institutions of American government and the American way of life. Conversely, each time citizens fail to vote because they are too comfortable, too apathetic, or too lazy they are symbolically abrogating everything for which this nation stands.

The continuation of self-government and democracy rests in the hands of the electorate. Not just the electorate of this country, but those who have recently turned to democracy as well. In fact, it rests with the electorate of all free countries, both old and new.

The new move toward democracy in Eastern Europe is almost a miracle in and of itself. This movement, and even more, the success of this movement vindicates the position Americans have held for more than 215 years: the position that man is, and by right ought to be, free and independent.

However, there is something that citizens of these new democracies, these Europeans who have so recently tasted the heady wine of freedom, just do not understand about Americans. They are totally baffled by the seeming lack of interest that Americans have in exercising the most precious societal right of mankind, the right to vote.

Frankly, I find it difficult to understand myself why Americans, who are the first to cry out in indignant outrage when someone, or something, infringes upon their personal freedoms, refuse to find the time to perform the small task which will, ultimately, guarantee the continuation of all their freedoms. And, of course, that task is the act of voting.

Voter apathy is hard to understand. Apparently the public is not aware of how completely the government can change every two years. Even in "off-year" elections, those which fall between presidential elections, a full one-third of the United States Senate and the entire House of Representatives comes up for election. It is shameful to note that usually less than one half the electorate decides who will govern our country.

It is up to the individual American to set the example. Don't count on the other person to get out the vote. He or she may be counting on you. Don't let someone else decide your future. If you are not registered, do so as soon as possible. Then, during federal, state and local elections, vote. It is your right and it is your responsibility.

**— Paul A. Rogers**
Legislative officer
VFW Post 4051
Colorado Springs

# Child abuse by gays real issue

A few observations concerning your article "Activist: Group made up abuse stats" (Gazette Telegraph, Sept. 3).

While both heterosexual and homosexual child abuse is to be deplored and should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, there is one major difference — the heterosexual community does not have an active, organized element pushing for the legalization of child abuse; the homosexual community does.

Homosexual child abuse is called pedophilia and within the homosexual community is a group seeking to make pedophilia part of the definition of "sexual orientation." The group is named NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Love Association).

The University of Massachusetts at Amhurst is the first institution of higher learning to label pedophilia as a "sexual orientation."

But then Alfred Kinsey, according to Judith A. Reisman in her book "Kinsey, Sex and Fraud," structured his research in a manner that made "sexual experimentation with children a legitimate endeavor. And he used the research results to promote the acceptance of pedophilia."

Homosexual bookstores have been selling Tom O'Carroll's "Paedophilia: The Radical Case" for years. O'Carroll argues he was born to love boys.

According to NAMBLA, "Sexual liberation cannot be achieved without the liberation of children." And again, "The child should have the right to decide whom to live with, whether a lesbian mother or a gay father, the 'natural' parents, a boy-lover, or someone else."

GT readers need to know that NAMBLA is a welcomed, respectable part of the homosexual community and actively participates in "Gay" parades — usually with a small child on the shoulders of the pederast.

One can be sure that the homosexuals seeking to torpedo Amendment 2 will not be discussing these matters in any detail. However, homosexual child abuse is a real issue, and the statistical data indicating such behavior is not made out of thin air.

**— David A. Noebel**
Manitou Springs

# Voucher foes fear the market

I would like to address a letter to those who feel school vouchers are simply government funding of private, Christian schools. While it is true that most existing private schools in our area are Christian, I don't see any prohibitions of any one else starting their own school, based on their own beliefs and values. I see that as the beauty of the whole idea.

Let's say you believe witchcraft or paganism is the enlightened way to believe. Open a private school that in addition to teaching a basic education, teaches the doctrines of witchcraft, and advertise openly for enrollment. If you want your children taught by those who engage in, or believe in the value of "alternative lifestyles," make that a qualification of all the staff at your school, and proclaim your stance.

Some of us Christians still believe that those ways are sinful and don't want them subtly, or openly, taught to our children. You may believe we are close-minded bigots, and that's your privilege. You have the freedom to believe and teach what you want, just as we do. Open the doors of enlightenment you feel you have and enroll some of those voucher-holders yourself.

Could it be that you're afraid you'd lose the corner on the market, the public school, which now silences Christians, but can speak ever increasingly of the doctrines and lifestyles of anything else?

**— Patrice R. Polacek**
Colorado Springs

## LETTERS WELCOME

The Gazette Telegraph welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and telephone number for verification. No unsigned letters will be published. The GT reserves the right to edit or to refuse to publish any letter.

WORLD

# Belgian balloonists cross Portuguese co

Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — Belgian balloonists reached the coast of Portugal early today to win the first trans-Atlantic balloon race, the event's organizers said.

Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten overflew the coastline near the northern border with Spain after about 115 hours aloft on a journey of 2,580 miles.

Two other two-man teams — British and American — remained in the race early today. The Dutch team, which had been in second place, declared an emergency earlier and planned to ditch in the sea off the French coast.

On Saturday, ice and rain forced Germans Erich Krafft and Jochen Mass to ditch in midocean. They were picked up in 10-foot waves by the Granite, a Bahamas-registered oil tanker bound for Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Atlantic crossing is danger and has been done by balloon only times since 1978. Five people died those attempts.

The five teams lifted off on the ney from Bangor, Maine, on Wedn in identical, nine-story balloons.

The Belgian team's landfall wa firmed at 3:30 a.m. European con tal time (7:30 p.m. MDT Sunday), cording to officials at the trackin ter in Rotterdam.

## BRIEFING

**Worldwide hunger decreasing, study says:** The share of people in developing nations who are hungry has dropped sharply during the past 20 years, even as the world's population grew by almost 2 billion, according to a U.N. report.

The Food and Agricultural Organization reported Sunday that the percentage of people in developing nations who are hungry had fallen to 20 percent; it had been 36 percent from 1961 to 1963 and from 1988 to 1990. The agency uses field surveys and statistics compiled from national reports of food production, imports and exports to develop its statistics.

"The food supply has not only kept up with that population, it has increased," said John Lupien, who heads the agency's food-policy and nutrition division.

Despite the heart-rending coverage of famines in Africa, some of the most stubborn hunger problems are in southern Asia, especially in Bangladesh and India, Lupien said. But Asian nations' gains in farming and distribution have made many of them self-sufficient.

**Jewish leader hopes to stem German violence:** Frankfurt real estate developer Ignatz Bubis was elected head of Germany's main Jewish organization on Sunday in Berlin. He said his first goal is to stop the rightist violence sweeping the country.

The new chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany said he'll also give priority to helping 15,000 recent Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Bubis, born 65 years ago in what is now Wroclaw, Poland, is a survivor of Nazi slave-labor camps. Several relatives, including his father, were killed by the Nazis.

He succeeds Heinz Galinski, who died in July after decades as Germany's most vocal opponent of anti-Semitism and far-right trends. The council Bubis now heads acts as a lobbying group and generally sets the direction of Jewish policy on various issues in Germany.

Bubis said he's confident German democracy is strong enough to deal with anti-foreigner rampages as long as politicians are willing.

**Cambodian troops get gulf war leftovers:** Cambodian soldiers will have a chance to savor U.S. leftovers from the Persian Gulf War.

"It will be a nice treat," said Charles Twining, head of the U.S. mission to Cambodia, as the 1.5 million donated "meals ready to eat" — or MREs — were unloaded at a Phnom Penh dock Sunday.

The meals, worth $4.5 million, include spaghetti, chicken stew and macaroni as well as goodies like chewing gum, Kool-Aid and cherry crumb cake. The traditional Cambodian diet consists of rice and fish.

About 25,000 troops are waiting in U.N. barracks to be demobilized as part of Cambodia's peace process. Each soldier will receive one MRE a week to supplement the food the United Na-

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